

Amendments to the Claims

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (canceled).
2. (previously presented) A facsimile transmitting/receiving system comprising a standard facsimile machine and a computer based system in communication with the standard facsimile machine, the system comprising:
 - a. an interface positioned intermediately of and in communication with both the facsimile machine and the computer;
 - b. a line for receiving and sending facsimile signals in communication with the interface for selectively communicating directly with the facsimile machine and the computer; and
 - c. means for converting encoded documents to formats compatible with computer supported systems and with the facsimile machine;

wherein said means is further adapted for converting facsimile signals to a format for transmission over distributive communication networks and for converting network transmitted signals in a format for transmission over a facsimile transmission line.

3. (original) The facsimile system of claim 2, wherein said interface further includes means for sending and receiving facsimile signals over a standard telephone line.
4. (original) The facsimile system of claim 2, wherein said interface further includes means for sending and receiving facsimile signals between the computer and the facsimile machine.
5. (original) The facsimile system of claim 3, wherein said interface further includes means for sending and receiving facsimile signals between the facsimile machine and the telephone line.
6. (original) The facsimile system of claim 3, wherein said interface further includes means for sending and receiving facsimile signals between the computer and the telephone line.
7. (canceled).
8. (canceled).
9. (canceled).
10. (previously presented) A method for transmitting a facsimile signal from a local station to a remote station via a distributive communication network comprising the steps of:

- a. generating a facsimile signal utilizing a standard facsimile machine at the local station;
- b. converting the signal to a format compatible with the network; and
- c. transmitting the converted signal via the network to a remote station;

wherein both the local station and the remote station are facsimile machines, and further comprising the steps of:

- a. receiving the converted, transmitted signal at the remote station;
- b. reconverting the transmitted signal to a facsimile format; and
- c. receiving the reconverted, transmitted signal at a standard facsimile machine.

11. (original) A method for transmitting a facsimile signal from a local station to a remote station via a distributive communication network comprising the steps of:

- a. generating a facsimile signal at the local station;
- b. converting the signal to a format compatible with the network; and
- c. transmitting the converted signal via the network to a remote station.

12. (canceled).

13. (canceled).

14. (canceled).

15. (canceled).

16. (canceled).

17. (original) An interface for use in combination with a facsimile receiving/sending station and an Internet interface, comprising means for converting a signal to be transmitted/received by the facsimile station to/from a format compatible with the network.

18. (original) The network of claim 17, further comprising a telephone line in communication with the interface, and means for selective directing a facsimile signal between the telephone line, the network interface and the facsimile receiving/sending station.

19. (original) The network of claim 18, wherein said network interface comprises a personal computer.

20. (previously presented) A facsimile transmitting/receiving system comprising a sending computer, a computer network, and a receiving computer

wherein the sending computer is comprised of an input device connected to a first controller, in turn connected to a transmitter and the receiving computer is comprised of a receiver connected to a second controller, in turn connected to an output device;

wherein the sending computer is connected to the computer network, which is in turn connected to the receiving computer; and

wherein the input device is capable of scanning a first document and providing a standard facsimile signal of said document to the first controller, the first controller capable of converting the standard facsimile signal to a computer data signal and forwarding said computer data signal to the transmitter, the transmitter capable of transmitting said computer

data signal to the receiver, the receiver capable of forwarding said computer data signal to the second controller, the second controller capable of rendering a second document, which is corresponding to the first document, to the output device based upon the computer data signal.

21. (previously presented) The facsimile transmitting/receiving system of claim 20 wherein the input device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

22. (previously presented) The facsimile transmitting/receiving system of claim 20 wherein the second controller is capable of converting the computer data signal to a second standard facsimile signal and forwarding said second standard facsimile signal to the output device; and

the output device capable of generating the second document on paper.

23. (previously presented) The facsimile transmitting/receiving system of claim 22 wherein the output device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

24. (previously presented) The facsimile transmitting/receiving system of claim 22 wherein the output device is a printer.

25. (previously presented) The facsimile transmitting/receiving system of claim 20 wherein the computer network is a TCP/IP network.

26. (previously presented) A facsimile transmitting/receiving system comprising a sending computer, a computer network, and a receiving computer

wherein the sending computer is comprised of a first controller connected to a transmitter and the receiving computer is comprised of a receiver connected to a second controller, in turn connected to an output device;

wherein the sending computer is connected to the computer network, which is in turn connected to the receiving computer; and

wherein the first computer has a computer data signal and forwards said computer data signal to the transmitter, the transmitter capable of transmitting said computer data signal to the receiver, the receiver capable of forwarding said computer data signal to the second controller, the second controller is capable of converting the computer data signal to a standard facsimile signal and forwarding said standard facsimile signal to the output device; and

the output device capable of generating the second document on paper.

27. (previously presented) The facsimile transmitting/receiving system of claim 26 wherein the output device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

28. (previously presented) The facsimile transmitting/receiving system of claim 26 wherein the computer network is a TCP/IP network.

29. (previously presented) A method of transmitting a facsimile copy of a document from a first location to a second location comprising the steps of

scanning a first document into an input device at the first location to generate a standard facsimile signal;

forwarding the standard facsimile signal to a first processor at the first location;
converting the standard facsimile signal to a computer data signal at the first location;
transmitting the computer data signal to a second processor at the second location;
and
rendering a second document substantially similar to the first document at the second location.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 29 wherein the transmitting is accomplished via a computer network.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30 where the computer network is a TCP/IP network.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 29 wherein the input device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the input device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 29 further comprising the steps of:
converting the computer data signal to a second standard facsimile signal at the second location; and
forwarding the second standard facsimile signal to an output device at the second location.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the output device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

36. (previously presented) A method of transmitting a facsimile copy of a document from a first location to a second location comprising the steps of:
creating a computer data signal representing a first document at the first location;
transmitting a computer data signal from a first processor at the first location to a second processor at the second location;
converting the computer data signal to a standard facsimile signal at the second location; and
forwarding the second standard facsimile signal to an output device at the second location,
rendering a second document corresponding to the first document at the second location.

37. (previously presented) The method of claim 36 wherein the output device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

38. (previously presented) A method of transmitting a facsimile copy of a document from a first location to a second location where a second document is rendered which is corresponding to the first document comprising the steps of:
scanning a first document into an input device at the first location to generate a standard facsimile signal;
forwarding the standard facsimile signal to a first processor at the first location;
converting the standard facsimile signal to a computer data signal at the first location;
and

initiating transmission of the computer data signal to a second processor at the second location.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the transmitting is initiated via a computer network.

40. (previously presented) The method of claim 39 where the computer network is a TCP/IP network.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the input device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

42. (canceled).

43. (previously presented) A method of transmitting a facsimile copy of a document from a first location to a second location where a computer data signal representing the document has been transmitted from a first processor at the first location to a second processor at the second location comprising the steps of:

- receiving transmission of a computer data signal from a first processor at the first location to the second processor at the second location;

- converting the computer data signal to a standard facsimile signal at the second location; and

- forwarding the second standard facsimile signal to an output device at the second location,

- rendering a second document substantially similar to the first document at the second location.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 43 wherein the output device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

45. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the steps comprising:

- receiving a standard facsimile signal representing a first document from an input device at a first location;

- converting the standard facsimile signal to a computer data signal; and

- initiating transmission of the computer data signal to a second processor at a second location for creation of a second document at the second location which is corresponding to the first document.

46. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 45 wherein the input device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

47. (previously presented) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the steps comprising:

- receiving transmission of a computer data signal representing a first document from a first processor at a first location; and

- converting the computer data signal to a standard facsimile signal; and

- forwarding the standard facsimile signal to an output device to cause creation of a second document which is substantially similar to the first document.

48. (previously presented) The computer readable medium of claim 47 wherein the output device is an off-the-shelf facsimile machine.

Claims 49 – 52 (canceled).

53. (new) A facsimile transmitting/receiving system comprising a standard facsimile machine and a computer based system in communication with said standard facsimile machine, the system comprising:

- an interface positioned intermediately of and in communication with both said facsimile machine and said computer based system;

- a line for receiving and sending facsimile signals in communication with said interface for selectively communicating directly with said facsimile machine and said computer;

- means for converting encoded documents to formats compatible with computer supported systems and with said facsimile machine;

- wherein said means is further adapted for converting facsimile signals to a format for transmission over distributive communication networks and for converting network transmitted signals in a format for transmission over a facsimile transmission line; and

- wherein said interface further comprises one or more switches for selectively controlling electronic communication between (1) said line and said computer based system and (2) said line and said facsimile machine.

54. (new) The facsimile system of claim 53, wherein said interface further comprises a first switch operable between an open position and a closed position, wherein said first switch in said closed position allows direct communication between said line and said computer based system.

55. (new) The facsimile system of claim 54, wherein said first switch in said open position prevents communication between said line and said computer based system.

56. (new) The facsimile system of claim 54, wherein said interface further comprises a second switch operable between an open position and a closed position, wherein said second switch in said closed position allows direct communication between said line and said facsimile machine.

57. (new) The facsimile system of claim 56, wherein said second switch in said open position prevents communication between said line and said computer based system.

58. (new) The facsimile system of claim 56, wherein said line is in direct communication with both (1) said computer based system and (2) said facsimile machine when said first switch and said second switch are simultaneously in their respective closed positions.

59. (new) The facsimile system of claim 53, further comprising a ring generator for initiating said facsimile machine.

60. (new) The facsimile system of claim 59, further comprising a parallel switch for selectively activating said ring generator.